

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01 /059 W  
-----291958Z 058200 /61

P 291755Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4155

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1983

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, ES  
SUBJECT: ARREST OF DR. RUBEN ZAMORA AND COMPANIONS

REF: STATE 093708; SAN SALVADOR 1894 (PARA 6)

1. IN APRIL 26 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, POLOFF AND DAO, UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS RICARDO CASTANEDA CORNEJO STATED THAT DR. RUBEN ZAMORA, HIS WIFE AND EDUARDO COLINDRES WERE STOPPED AT ROADBLOCK FOR ROUTINE CHECK AT 11:30 PM, APRIL 23, NEAR A REMOTE SECTION OF SAN SALVADOR WHERE GOES AUTHORITIES SUSPECT FONMIN BORGONOVO IS BEING HELD BY ABDUCTORS. CASTANEDA SAID THE THREE WERE ARRESTED BECAUSE NONE WAS CARRYING IDENTITY CARD, NOR WERE THEY CARRYING AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION PAPERS.

2. NATIONAL POLICE HAVE ISSUED BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN ALL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS STATING THAT AT ROADBLOCK IN VISTA HERMOSA SECTION OF SAN SALVADOR A NUMBER OF PERSONS WERE ARRESTED ON APRIL 23 QTE FOR DIFFERENT REASONS AND CIRCUMSTATNCES, SUCH AS LACK OF DOCUMENTATION, DRUNKENNESS AND ON SUSPICION. AMONG THOSE DETAINED ARE THE FOLLOWING: CARLOS ALBERTO CALERO FLORES, LUIS ARTURO PALUCHA LOPEZ, RUBEN IGNACIO ZAMORA RIVAS, PALO ANTONIO CASTILLO RODAS, ANA VILMA ROSAS ORTIZ, EDUARDO BENJAMIN  
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COLINDRES SCHONEMBERG, ANTONIO ULLOA CHICAS AND LILLIAN MORENO ESCOBAR. UNQTE

3. MRS. ZAMORA HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN RELEASED. EMBASSY CONTACTS CLAIM THAT ZAMORA AND COLINDRES HAVE BEEN SENTENCED, PRESUMABLY BY A JUDGE, TO QTE THIRTY DAY NON-COMMUTABLE SENTENCES. UNQTE

THE EXACT CHARGES ON WHICH THEY WERE BROUGHT BEFORE A TRIBUNAL ARE UNKNOWN. A PDC SOURCE, CLAIMING HIS INFORMATION COMES DIRECTLY FROM THE OFFICER WHO ARRESTED ZAMORA, SAID THE PROFESSOR WAS PICKED UP TO SEE IF HE, AS A KNOWN OPPOSITIONIST WITH EXTENSIVE CONTACTS AMONG YOUNG RADICALS AT THE UNIVERSITY, HAD ANY INFORMATION THE GOES COULD USE IN THE BORGONOVO KIDNAPPING. THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE FPL IS UNIVERSITY BASED, AND ZAMORA'S ARREST WAS A FISHING EXPEDITION.

4. THE NEWSPAPERS OF APRIL 28 CARRIED THE STORY THAT ZAMORA WAS FIRED FROM HIS UNIVERSITY TEACHING POSITION FOR QTE ABSENTEEISM. UNQTE THIS IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND SINCE THE UNIVERSITY WAS CLOSED BY THE GOES SOME MONTHS AGO AND CLASSES ARE NOT BEING HELD.

5. ZAMORA'S ARREST WAS ALSO MENTIONED IN THE LATEST COMMUNIQUE (NUMBER 5) FROM THE FPL. THE TERRORISTS POINT TO HIS DETENTION AS EVIDENCE THAT THE GOES IS NOT MEETING AN ORIGINAL FPL DEMAND TO HALT ALL ARRESTS AND PURSUIT IN THE BORGONOVO CASE.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE THE VARIOUS VERSIONS GOING AROUND OF WHY ZAMORA WAS PICKED UP, THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT THE SECURITY SERVICES BELIEVE ZAMORA WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE EARLIER POMA  
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KIDNAPPING. THEY OBTAINED THIS INFORMATION FROM INTERROGATIONS OF SEVERAL PERSONS THEY HOLD INCOMMUNICADO.  
LOZANO

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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